

the parties by stipulation waive the signing or the deponent is ill, cannot be found, or refuses to sign. If the transcript is not signed, the person before whom the deposition was taken shall sign it and state on the record the reason that it is not signed.

(e) *Certification and filing.* The person before whom the deposition was taken shall certify on the transcript as to its accuracy. The original transcript and exhibits shall be sent by mail to the hearing officer unless otherwise directed in the order authorizing the taking of the deposition. Interested parties shall make their own arrangements with the person recording the testimony for copies of the testimony and the exhibits.

(f) *Deposition as evidence.* Subject to appropriate rulings by the hearing officer on objections, the deposition or any part may be introduced into evidence for any purpose if the deponent is unavailable. Only that part of a deposition which is received in evidence at a hearing shall constitute a part of the record in the proceeding upon which a decision may be based. Nothing in this rule is intended to limit the use of a deposition for impeachment purposes.

(g) *Payment of fees.* Fees shall be paid by the person upon whose application the deposition is taken.

#### **§ 26.19 Request for production of documents.**

(a) *Request to produce.* At any time after a request for hearing has been filed, any party may serve upon any other party a written request to produce, and permit the party making the request to inspect and copy, any relevant designated documents (including writings, drawings, graphs, charts, and other data compilations). The request shall set forth the items to be inspected either by individual item or by category with reasonable particularity. The request shall specify a reasonable time, place, and manner of making the inspection and performing the related acts.

(b) *Response to request to produce.* The party upon whom the request is served shall serve a written response within twenty days after service of the request unless the Hearing Officer determines that a shorter or longer period is

appropriate under the circumstances. The response shall state, with respect to each item or category, that inspection and related activities will be permitted as requested, unless the request is objected to, in which case the reasons for the objection shall be stated. If objection is made to part of an item or category, the part shall be specified. The party submitting the request may move for an order under § 26.17 with respect to any objection to or other failure to respond to the request or any part thereof, or any failure to permit inspection as requested.

#### **§ 26.20 Admissions as to facts and documents.**

(a) *Request for admissions.* At any time after an answer has been filed, any party may serve upon any other party a written request for the admission of the genuineness of any relevant documents described in the request or of the truth of any relevant matters of fact. Copies of documents shall be delivered with the request unless copies have already been furnished. No order of the hearing officer is necessary.

(b) *Objection.* Each requested admission shall be considered admitted unless, within fifteen days after service of the request, the party from whom the admission is sought serves upon the party making the request either (1) a statement denying specifically the relevant matters of which an admission is requested or setting forth in detail the reasons why the party can neither truthfully admit nor deny them, or (2) written objections on the ground that some or all of the matters involved are privileged or irrelevant. Answers on matters to which objections are made may be deferred until the objections are ruled upon, but if written objections are made only to a part of a request, the remainder of the request shall be answered.

(c) *Limitation.* Admissions obtained pursuant to this procedure may be used in evidence only for the purposes of the pending action to the same extent and subject to the same objections as other evidence.

#### **§ 26.21 Prehearing conference.**

(a) *Prehearing conference.* The hearing officer may, on the hearing officer's